

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONA NEW SUBSPECIES OF PRONGHORN ANTELOPE FROM
LOWER CALIFORNIA.

BY E. W. NELSON.

This subspecies is based on a series of twelve specimens, all from the type locality and neighboring district, now in the Biological Survey Collection. Comparisons were made with about an equal series of *mexicana* and an even larger number of *americana* from various parts of the western United States.

***Antilocapra americana peninsularis* subsp. nov.**

Type No. 178,445, adult male, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection, from 45 miles south of Calmalli, Lower California, Mexico; collected February 4, 1912, by E. W. Fumeke.

Distribution.—Middle Lower California, south to the head of Ballenas Bay in about 27° north latitude, and north on the west coast to about 29° 30'; on the gulf side to beyond 32°, to the southern end of the Colorado Desert.

Subspecific characters.—Compared with typical *Antilocapra americana* from North Dakota the present form agrees in the dark sooty brown facial markings strongly contrasting with the surrounding white and dark reddish-buff areas (facial area distinctly paler in *mexicana*); ears of *peninsularis* much darker about tips; in typical *americana* as well as in *mexicana*, terminal half of ears bordered with a narrow black line and a few scattered black hairs on outside (back), in *peninsularis* this black border much heavier and terminal third of outside (or back) mainly blackish, the terminal inch commonly nearly pure black; in *americana* rufous area on top of tail extends forward partly dividing white rump patch but usually becoming obsolescent before reaching rufous area on back; in *peninsularis* this rufous band extends forward forming a strongly marked bar about an inch wide from tail to rufous of back thus definitely dividing white rump patch; horns of *peninsularis* shorter and actually as well as proportionately thicker laterally at base than in *americana* or *mexicana*, with the surface, up to prongs, much roughened

and covered with numerous small knobs and wart-like protuberances; horns in this form also average much more upright and less diverging than in either of the other forms; molar series heavier than in *americana* and much heavier than in *mexicana*. Size about the same in all three subspecies.

Remarks.—It was unexpected to find the antelope of the remote and excessively hot arid deserts of Lower California more like typical *americana* in the dark coloring of the head than like the pale *mexicana*. While the differences noted are not very striking they appear sufficient to characterize a good local form. Antelope formerly ranged over nearly the entire length of Lower California but are now gone from a large part of their ancient range and their steadily decreasing numbers indicate their early extinction throughout the peninsula.